



University of South Florida

Digital Commons @ University of South Florida

Cave Talk

Newsletters and Periodicals

November 2006

Cave Talk

Cave Association National

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/cave_talk

Recommended Citation

National, Cave Association, "Cave Talk" (2006). *Cave Talk*. 33.
https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/cave_talk/33

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Newsletters and Periodicals at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Cave Talk by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact scholarcommons@usf.edu.

OFFICERS:

President: Brad Wuest

Natural Bridge Caverns, TX 210-651-6101
bwuest@naturalbridgecaverns.com

Vice President: Steve Thompson

Fantastic Caverns, MO 417-833-2010
sthompson@fantasticcaverns.com

Secretary Treasurer: Eric Evans

Ohio Caverns, OH 937-465-4017
ohiocaverns@cavern.com

Coordinating Director: Susan Berdeaux

Diamond Caverns, KY 866-552-2837
susan@cavern.com

Past President: John Sagendorf

Howe Caverns, NY 518-296-8900
johns@howecaverns.com

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region One:

(CT, DE, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT)

Greg Beckler Natural Stone Bridge & Caves
518-494-2283 deebeckler@frontiernet.net

Region Two: (MD, VA, WV, KY)

Gary Berdeaux - Diamond Caverns, KY
270-749-2233 gary@diamondcaverns.com

Region Three: (IN, MI, OH)

Claudia Yundt - Squire Boone Caverns, IN
812-732-4382 claudia@squireboone.com

Region Four: (AR, IL, IA, MO, MS, LA)

David Thompson - Bridal Cave, MO
573-346-2676 info@bridalcave.com

Region Five: (MT, WY, NE, MN, WI)

Joe Klimczak - Cave of the Mounds, WI
608-437-3038 joe@caveofthemounds.com

Region Six : (WA, ID, OR, NV, CA, HI, AK)

Steve Fairchild - Moaning Cavern, CA
209-736-0330 caverns@cavernstours.com

Region Seven: (UT, CO, AZ, NM, SD, ND)

Steve Runkle - Cave of the Winds, CO
719-685-5444 rsr@caveofthewinds.com

Region Eight: (TX, OK, KS)

Michelle Devaney - Longhorn Caverns, TX
830-598-CAVE
michelle@longhorncaverns.com

Region Nine: (AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN, PR)

Allen Mathis - DeSoto Caverns, AL
256-378-7252
awm3@desotocavernspark.com

International:

Jeanne Gurnee - TN
615-264-0019 jgurnee@aol.com



CaveTalk

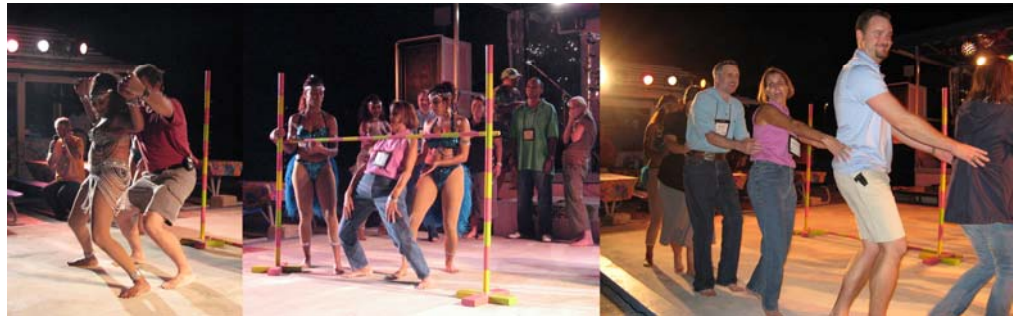
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL CAVES ASSOCIATION

National Caves Association - Susan Berdeaux, Coordinating Director

P.O. Box 280, Park City, KY 42160 susan@cavern.com 866-552-2837 (toll free) 270-749-2428 (fax)

CONVENTION 2006 - BERMUDA
OCTOBER 17-21, 2006

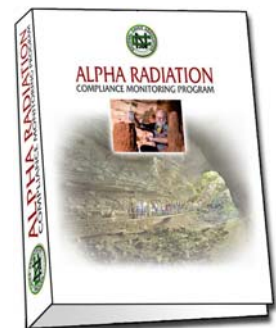
HOT! HOT! HOT!



That was not just the temperature at this year's annual meeting. Board and committee members fairly sizzled with all the work that was accomplished, which made the social activities even more rewarding. If this editor heard it once, she heard it repeated many times, "This meeting was the best yet!" David Summers and his staff went out of their way to be sure our members lacked for nothing, which is no small task, as needy a group as we were. The weather was extremely accommodating, making it sometimes hard to stay indoors for business sessions. Social activities included a beach barbeque and a cruise to Hawkins Island for dinner, dancing and a limbo contest, all set to calypso music. It would be hard to pinpoint any one activity as being the highlight – there were too many to choose from!

Plenty of business was conducted, believe it or not. The Executive Committee has taken steps to incorporate the NCA, and our financial house is in order. The board welcomes three new members: Greg Beckler, Steve Runkle, and Allen Mathis from Regions 1, 7 and 9, respectively. Tom Aley gave his final report on the Alpha Radiation program and binders containing instructions for completing individual cave management plans were distributed.

(Those who were not in attendance should be receiving their binders by the end of the month). Our insurance brokers from Arthur J Gallagher and Markel were there to address a general business session on several aspects of the various coverages offered to



members. Break-out sessions were "The Gift Shop & the Gift Shows", "Admission Pricing", "Internet Ticketing", and "Digital Photography", all led by our own capable members. Brandon Mathis, our webmaster, showed us a few useful tools on our redesigned website. (Look for monthly summaries to be moved here, in real time, in the near future). We were also fortunate to have two sessions led by ISCA members. Andy Spate from Australia took us for a virtual tour of Australia's caves and Arrigno Cigna from Italy did a presentation on controlling lampenflora (algae). To cap the week off, President Wuest set off the last blast of the day at 2:59 pm, Friday, Oct 20 at Wilkinson's Quarry, followed by a tour of Admiral's Cave, the site of Crystal Caves of Bermuda new adventure tour.



Bermuda Shorts
Texas-Style
President Brad Wuest

This year, our convention was held back-to-back with the International Show Caves Association (ISCA). There was a unity dinner held Saturday evening at the close of the NCA meeting for all participants of both organizations. Some of our members were fortunate enough to stay for a few ISCA activities and reconnect with friends they have made in their international travels. Congratulations to David Summers, who was elected President of ISCA and to NCA President Brad Wuest, who was elected a regional director. Thanks to outgoing Vice-president Steve "Lotsa Caves" Fairchild for his many years of service to ISCA, on behalf of the NCA.

Everyone who attends our annual meeting agrees that the best value is ALWAYS the fellowship and sharing between the members. We would really like to hear from those who did not attend, not only this year, but previous years also. Please tell us why you do not attend – is it cost? Time of year? Location? No interest? Lack of pertinent material? Inquiring minds want to know!! The Executive Committee, Board of Directors and the Convention Committee are absolutely committed to making each meeting what the members have asked for. We need input from everyone to accomplish this task. Let us hear from you. You can contact your regional director or any member of either the Executive Committee or the Convention Committee.

Contact information is on the masthead of this newsletter or on the member side of our newly launched website, www.cavern.com. We would love to have more than 50% of our members in attendance on a regular basis. If you need some incentive, here are some comments made by members at this last meeting:

John Winther, Lake Shasta Caverns, CA – "This one idea will pay for my trip here".

Gail Rooney, Cave of the Mounds, WI – "Only a dang fool would miss these meetings!"

Here's Matt Doyle, also from Lake Shasta, signaling this meeting was "A 4 out of 4 stars... and the beer wasn't bad either"



Our thanks to David Summers and his staff for a job more than well-done. We were treated to a meeting no one will forget for quite some time. Next year, we will be meeting in Texas. Our hosts are Natural Bridge Caverns and we will be headquartered on the Riverwalk in downtown San Antonio. The dates are October 21-25, 2007. It promises to be as valuable and informative as we can make it, again with help from all of you. Start making plans now, you will not want to miss out!